

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 12990

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ELECTION ASSISTANCE

REF CAIRO 11306,

1. DR SAFWAT MUHI AL-DIN CALLED ON EMBOFF SEPT 27 TO ASK FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN. DR SAFWAT IS VICE CHAIRMAN FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY AND HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO US IN PAST. HE IS, TO BEST OUR KNOWLEDGE, GENUINE SUPPORTER OF SADAT'S FOREIGN AND INTERNAL POLICIES, AND, AS ONE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO MADE GROUP TRIP TO US LAST YEAR, PROBABLY CONSIDERS HIM-SELF SELECT FRIEND OF US. HE HAS REPRESENTED HIS RURAL CONSTITUENCY OF KAHR SHUKR SINCE 1971, HAVING TAKEN THE SEAT AWAY FROM HIS COUSIN, KHALID MUHI AL-DIN. LATTER, HEAD OF ASU LEFTIST ORGANIZATION, IS EX-RCC MEMBER AND LEADING EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST.

2. DR SAFWAT TOLD EMBOFF THAT UNTIL TWO WEEKS AGO HE HAD BEEN CONFIDENT HE WOULD RETAIN HIS SEAT, BUT THAT KHALID HAS NOW BEGUN TO SPEND CONSIDERABLE SUMS OF MONEY ON "GIFTS" TO MOSQUES (COMMENT: HKALID DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE TIME AND EFFORT TO PUBLICIZING HIS DEEP RELIGIOUS BELIEFS), CLUBS AND VILLAGE CHIEFS. MANY OF LATTER GROUP "CAN BE BOUGHT QUITE CHEAPLY". DR SAFWAT BELIEVES HE IS STILL FRONT RUNNER BUT FEARS THAT IN LAST FEW DAYS BEFORE ELECTIONS OCT 28 KHALID WILL GO ALL

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OUT TO BUY THE SEAT.

3. ACCORDING TO DR SAFWAT, KHALID'S MONEY IS COMING TO HIM FROM THE SOVIETS THROUGH AN EGYPTIAN NAMED SAHRATI, WHO IS UNDER CONTRACT TO SOVIET GOVT AS AGENT FOR EXPORTS OF CITRUS PRODUCTS. EMBOFF ASKED IF IT WAS SOVIET EMBASSY OR OTHER BLOC EMBASSIES WHICH WERE ACTIVE AS FUNNEL TO MARXIST CANDIDATES. DR SAFWAT SAID HE IS SURE THAT IN HIS CASE SOVIETS ARE WORKING DIRECTLY THROUGH THIS EGYPTIAN "BUSINESSMAN".

4. DR SAFWAT EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD GONE TO PRIMIN SALIM TO COMPLAIN, BUT THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE, EVEN THOUGH HE IS NOT THE ONLY NON-MARXIST CANDIDATE WHO IS FACING DEEP POCKETS OF OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL COMMUNIST NOMINEES.

5. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT USG DOD NOT RPT NOT INVOLVE ITSELF IN EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS AND, THEREFORE, WOULD BE UNABLE TO HELP DR SAFWAT MEET HIS ELECTION EXPENSES. AFTER EXPRESSING INITIAL SCEPTICISM, DR SAFWAT SAID HE UNDERSTOOD EMBASSY'S "NEUTRAL" POSITION.
MATTHEWS

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NNN

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